

**LAKE WASHINGTON BOULEVARD VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**PUBLIC MEETING #4: SLOPE UNIT**  
**Thursday, September 28, 2006**  
Rainier Community Center

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Staff Members Present:** Katie Moller, Urban Forester; Jon Martin, Northeast District Crew Chief; Lisa Beyeler, Planning Intern

**Meeting:** The purpose of the meeting was to present maintenance opportunities for the development of the slopes along Lake Washington Boulevard and to share ideas and listen to the neighbor and communities hopes and concerns for the proposed Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for Lake Washington Boulevard.

The meeting was held from 6:30-8:30pm. About 15 community members attended and most everyone participated in the discussion with lots of questions and comments about the Vegetation Management Plan.

The focus of the meeting was a PowerPoint presentation that included a summary of the University of Washington study of Lake Washington Boulevard, the current progress of the Vegetation Management Plan with Seattle Parks and Recreation. These presentations were intended as a starting point to elicit ideas from the community.

The University of Washington study was conducted by undergraduate students in the Landscape Architecture program under professors Iain Robertson and Daniel Winterbottom. Using the 1903 Olmsted design of Lake Washington Boulevard and their vision for the greater Seattle metropolitan region as well as the 1986 study of Lake Washington Boulevard by the firm EDAW, the students began generating ideas and concepts for the management of vegetation along the Boulevard.

The University of Washington students proposed many thought-provoking models for the slopes along Lake Washington Boulevard. Their key concepts included a proposed plant palette and spacing plan for the slopes as well as a proposed staircase planting plan, edge treatment and canopy walk.

Since the University of Washington studio ended in the spring of 2006, Seattle Parks and Recreation has spent the summer reviewing their plans as well as looking for ways to practically implement their maintenance concepts.

Seattle Parks and Recreation staff used GIS data to compile statistics regarding the location and types of slopes along Lake Washington Boulevard including areas prone to sliding. Also presented were current tree policies and important contacts for tree and plant removal or pruning.

The materials proved to be a good catalyst for a broad discussion of the opportunities presented by the slopes unit of the Vegetation Management Plan. With the input from this meeting, Parks Urban Forestry staff will put together a draft Vegetation Management Plan for presentation on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Rainier Community Center.

**Written  
Comments:**

- Why isn't the Lake Washington Boulevard Vegetation Management Plan (LWB VMP) addressing property encroachment issues?
- Will certain sections of the VMP address "hot spots" along LWB?
  - 1300 block before the lid of I-90 (stairway on S. Judkins) that is steep and problematic (25' wide)
  - Ivy overgrown, possible slide area
  - If S. Judkins and the median are addressed, it is logical to extend this area
- Will there be a more specific study in the area between McClellan and Stan Sayres?
  - Slope area, greenbelt from Mt. Baker Beach to Stan Sayres
  - Slope on uplands section (west of boulevard) currently forested
- Edge graphic presented implies that no trees within 40' east and west of the stairways are to be planted, this is 80' of empty canopy space
- Area right over the I-90 Lid
  - Invasive shrubs growing just south of the park east portal
  - Park property with a huge grouping of Portuguese laurel
  - Could one go through Mark Mead and receive a permit to remove these plants and replace with natives?
- Tree replacement
  - 2:1 removal and replacement
  - What are the guidelines?
- Parks staff going a great job with public involvement process for this project!
- Tree (Hawthorne) taken over by invasives on extremely steep slopes (20' tall)
  - What are guidelines for improvement, removal and replacement?
  - Would this be an example of a situation that could be addressed with the tree permitting process
  - What are the roles of volunteers in this situation?
- Grant-writing process
  - Department of Neighborhoods, Pam Kliment
  - Having a group (5-6 people) and demonstrating an ability and willingness to work

- Edge Prototype
  - Madrona Park to LWB, over grown and dangerous
  - What would Parks suggest for that edge?
  - Thick growth of shrubs to LWB, not an effective or safe transition to LWB
- Is there a list or resource of Pacific NW invasive plants?